

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending. Claims 1-27 are herein amended. Claims 34-37 are new.

The Examiner objected to Figures 1 and 5 under 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(5) because the reference "50" was not mentioned in the corresponding description. The Applicants have amended the specification (paragraph #s: 0024 and 0038) accordingly. No new matter has been added. As such, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this objection.

The Examiner objected to the Abstract. The Applicants have amended the Abstract based on the Examiner's comments, and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this objection.

Claims 1-17, 21, 22, 24, 25, and 27-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Vaid (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0091843).

The Applicants traverse this rejection. In addition, the Applicants have amended the claims to more distinctly define the claimed invention.

As a preliminary matter, the Applicants do not concede that Vaid has an effective date that is prior to the Applicants' date of invention. However, to move this case to allowance, the Applicants will now discuss deficiencies associated with Vaid.

The Applicants' claims 1-26 define a network adapter for one or more access points in a local area network environment, and claims 27-34 define a method for providing a network adapter for a plurality of access points in a local area network environment. Each of these claims now recites, in part: "... enforcing a managed network environment, including at least one of filtering and rewriting data packets ...". In addition, new claims 34-37 define a network adapter capable of : "... enforcing a managed network environment, including at least one of filtering and rewriting data packets ...". The concepts of packet filtering and rewriting were previously recited, for example, in dependent claims 28 and 31. Such filtering and/or rewriting features enable policies (e.g., security, quality-of-service, and/or packet rewriting policies) of the managed network environment to be enforced at the network adapter (or the access points or other module with which the adapter is integrated).

Vaid discloses an adapter that aggregates network traffic from a plurality of portable computing devices and combines the aggregated data into a single wireless network data channel. The adapter has a wireless network interface for establishing and maintaining a wireless network channel with a wireless base station, and combines the data in a manner that preserves addressing information (such as IP source and destination addresses) for each individual portable computing device. For data sent by the portable computing devices, a wireless Internet service provider separates the data according to a predetermined protocol, and creates individual data packets, such as IP packets, for each portable computing device using the network data channel. A complementary operation is performed by the wireless Internet service provider for data addressed to the portable computing devices connected to the adapter. (e.g., Abstract, paragraph #s 0007, 0033; Figures 1 and 3).

In more detail, Vaid's adapter multiplexes signals from the plurality of portable computing devices into a single data stream for transmission to the Internet service provider, and demultiplexes the single data stream from the Internet service provider into individual signals for transmission to respective portable computing devices. (e.g., paragraph #s 0037-0038; Figure 5). Vaid's adapter further includes an "intelligent services unit" that provides services to optimize bandwidth usage of network connections. (e.g., paragraph #s 0006, 0033, 0044; Figure 7). Vaid's adapter further includes a "shared signal processing unit" that responds to requests for access of the single wireless channel, according to a predetermined prioritization scheme. (e.g., paragraph # 0042; Figure 6). Thus, Vaid's adapter simply enables a number of portable computing devices to have bi-directional communication with a network using a single wireless data channel.

The Applicants can find no occurrence where Vaid discloses or suggests a network adapter capable of "enforcing a managed network environment, including at least one of filtering and rewriting data packets", as now recited in each of the Applicants independent claims, and as originally recited in dependent claims 28 and 31. Simply stated, there is no packet filtering or packet rewriting performed by Vaid's adapter. Further, Vaid fails to disclose or suggest a network adapter "wherein packet filtering is carried out in accordance with at least one of security and quality-of-service policies of the managed network environment" as recited in the Applicants' new dependent claim 35. Nor does Vaid disclose or suggest a network adapter "wherein packet rewriting is carried out in accordance with packet rewriting policies of the

managed network environment” as recited in new dependent claim 36, or “wherein the packet rewriting policies enable at least one of a roaming capability and network address translation (NAT)” as recited in new dependent claim 37.

For at least these reasons, Vaid fails to disclose or otherwise suggest each and every limitation recited in the Applicants’ claims, and therefore cannot anticipate the claimed invention. MPEP § 2131. As such, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claims 18-21, 23, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vaid.

As previously explained, Vaid fails to disclose each and every limitation of the claimed invention, and therefore cannot anticipate or render unpatentable the claimed invention. MPEP §§ 2131, 2143. The previous discussion as to the deficiencies of Vaid equally applies here. In addition, and as correctly noted by the Examiner, Vaid fails to disclose all of the limitations recited in claims 18-21, 23, and 26. To correct this deficiency, the Examiner takes official notice that it would have been obvious to modify Vaid to arrive at the claimed invention as recited in each of claims 18-21, 23, and 26.

The Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s official notice, particularly in light of other deficiencies associated with Vaid as discussed herein. Moreover, claims 19 and 20 have been amended to more distinctly define the claimed invention in cases where a user is roaming through the environment. Vaid does not address such situations. In addition, the Examiner cites Vaid’s discussion of port types (USB, Bluetooth, etc, paragraph #0023) as suggesting a network control server that is distributed over a wired network, as recited in claim 23. The Applicant respectfully submits that accommodating multiple port types is a concept that is distinct from the concept of a distributed network control server. For instance, components of the network control server can be distributed to provide improved performance or failure handling, regardless of the types of data ports accommodated.

The Examiner is kindly reminded that “assertions of technical fact in areas of esoteric technology must always be supported by citation of some reference work” and “allegations concerning specific knowledge of the prior art, which might be peculiar to a particular art should also be supported.” MPEP § 2144.03 The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner

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provide a reference showing the limitations recited in claims 18-21, 23, and 26, in accordance with MPEP § 2144.03.

For at least these reasons, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection of claims 18-21, 23, and 26.

The Applicants believe the above remarks to be fully responsive. Favorable action is solicited. The Applicants kindly invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone, facsimile, or email for quickest resolution, if there are any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted
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